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The Imperial Institute
of
North America

in affiliation with

The Anglo American
and
Dominion Club

Ottawa, Canada

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No. 3033

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Its Purpose

The Imperial Institute of North America is established with the support and co-operation of Members of the Senate and House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada, officials of the Government and many of the leading men of various professions and avocations throughout Canada, and by members of The Anglo-American and Dominion Club, Ottawa, Canada.

Its sphere of usefulness and activity is now being extended to England, Ireland, Scotland and the other world-over parts of the British Empire, and to the United States of America, and the same hearty support and co-operation already received in Canada will be asked for in the Republic and throughout the Empire.

In drawing still closer the bond of Anglo-American unity and using it as the mightiest civilizing, controlling and compelling power the world has known, it is hoped and believed that the Institute in its own way, even if only to a very small extent, may serve in the great readjustment which will follow the termination of the present appalling war. The work of bringing order out of comparative chaos will have to be faced chiefly by the English speaking people of the world. In any event, the Institute may do good work in the receiving

and distributing of the best thoughts from our members bearing on the gravest work the Empire and the Republic acting in perfect unison ever had or ever will have to undertake.

Civilization will not only expect but demand and rely on Great Britain and its daughter nations and the United States for its reconstruction in the days to come. It is the Empire's own kith and kin of English, Irish and Scotch blood, assisted by the old French stock, that must, so far as the United States is concerned, shoulder the burden with the Empire, for is it not they who almost entirely have made the Great Republic what it is? It is indeed from among the people of our own stock on this North American continent that we must look for our membership if we are to be of service.

Organization and Scope.

The Imperial Institute of North America is being modelled after and is adopting, the most desirable and useful features of The Imperial Institute of London, several other similar organizations dealing with matters of world-wide interest and the Royal Colonial Institute, whose home is also in the capital of the Empire.

The latter Institute was founded nearly fifty years ago. It first occupied as premises two rooms, with adjacent offices, in the Westminster Palace Hotel in London, in which hotel the details respecting the confederation of the various provinces of British North America were discussed, the provisions of the

Act of British North America drawn and in which practically took place the birth of the Dominion of Canada.

It became at once a Club house where persons from all parts of the Empire might meet and exchange views and experiences under the most agreeable auspices. It soon became a receiver of and distributor of information which resulted in the formation of an Information Bureau.

It also became a great convenience and especially to members who did not reside at the metropolis. It provided the latest and most authoritative facts regarding the Empire and served as a medium of communication between members residing in different parts of the world. Especially was it valuable as a corresponding medium in providing on request information not available to members at their own homes.

The Institute commenced with considerably less than two hundred members. It now has a membership of between nine thousand and ten thousand, scattered throughout the length and breadth of the world and sailing every sea.

The interest in the Institute is maintained and is constantly increasing by the publication of news items and articles of general interest for distribution among the members from the pens of some one hundred and fifty honorary corresponding secretaries in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and every part of the Empire; in the United States, the Argentine

Republic, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Panama, Mexico, and from practically all the Nations and States and Islands of the eastern hemisphere. The establishing of branches of the parent Institute, the issuing to members of a year book of great value and interest with supplements and the publication of a journal for members, which with the services of the Information Bureau, give especially to the non-resident members a many-fold return for the exceedingly small membership fees. There is also the use of the premises of the Institute, the Club, and branches wherever they may be established.

The Institute and Club now owns the fine and commodious building in which it is housed in Northumberland Avenue, London, and comprises twenty-five well equipped rooms. There are a parliamentary and general library, a map room, and a writing and type-writing room, the Information Bureau, a Newspaper and Magazine room, a Council Chamber and accommodation for the Editorial Department. In addition there are the usual rooms provided by any well appointed club in which members and their guests may be accommodated with the usual accessories and receive proper attention.

The Library contains approximately one hundred thousand volumes and pamphlets dealing with every conceivable matter of interest to members, which enables The Bureau of Information to carry out its functions. The Library is divided into main sections and is further sub-divided so that all the books on a given topic are found together on the shelves.

In the Newspaper Room nearly nine hundred different newspapers are received and filed. They are from all parts of the world and are suitably displayed for the use of the members and their guests.

The Information Bureau deals with enquiries made in person or by letter from its members. It distributes matter which is thought to be of interest and obtains and forwards on request when possible reports of an official or semi-official character, as well as publications of Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, Reports of Commissions and other reports and returns of a like character.

Frequent evening meetings are held. The papers read are often illustrated by lantern slides. Scientific enquiry is encouraged and the Gold Medal of the Institute, accompanied by a money grant, is offered annually for the best research monograph on some subject selected from time to time. The theme for the current year has been selected with reference to the immediate phase of the Imperial movement and is stated as follows.

"The applicability of the dictum that "A democracy cannot manage an Empire" (Thucydides, Bk.iii., ch. 37, Jowett's translation) to the present conditions and future problems of the British Empire, particularly the question of the future of India."

Prizes for essays on various subjects are offered from time to time, especially to young men and women

undergoing education. Lectures are given and reproduced in whole or in part for members on such subjects as:

- “Our World-Wide Empire.”
- “Outposts of the British Empire.”
- “The Dominion of Canada.”
- “The Commonwealth of Australia.”
- “The Union of South Africa and Rhodesia.”
- “New Zealand—the Wonderland of the World.”
- “Ceylon—Eden of the Eastern Wave.”
- “The British Isles of the Far Pacific.”
- “Our Crown Colonies, Dependencies and Protectorates.”
- “Newfoundland—Our Oldest Colony.”
- “British Possessions in the Mediterranean.”
- “The Straits Settlements, the Malay States and North Borneo.”
- “The British West Indies.”
- “British Columbia.”
- “Round the World on the King’s Highway—the All-Red Route.”

These lectures are often illustrated by lantern slides and some by cinematograph films.

The *Trade, Industry, and Emigration* Committees of the *Institute* fulfil their functions, but their scope and what they have done is too broad and too weighty to be here dealt with, as is the work of the *Statistical Branch*.

The social side of the Institute finds its outlet in dinners and luncheons and evening entertainments,

of which some are designed especially for the pleasure of the guests of the evening, "the Ladies."

The Imperial Institute of North America will adopt the main objects and features of The Royal Colonial Institute and other similar organizations; but with especial consideration being given to meeting the inclinations, tastes and requirements of the people of this country and of our kinsmen, friends and business associates in the United States.

We now have the Club, the Library and Newspaper and Writing Rooms and other rooms available for meeting places; the beginning of the Information Bureau and it will be but a short time before we will be in a position to adopt such other features as have been found desirable by other Institutes of the Empire and of the United States. The Year Book will be issued and a Magazine published and Bulletins issued as speedily as possible, even if we have to make a somewhat modest beginning.

We, too, like The Royal Colonial Institute have organized in an historic hotel, The Russell House of Ottawa, and have at our disposal the chief or Royal suite of rooms on the first up-stairs floor of the hotel, at the corner of Elgin and Sparks Streets. The history of Canada for over forty years has been very largely made in them and they have been the meeting place and have afforded living accommodation for successive Premiers and Ministers of the Crown. No other place in the Dominion has anything like their interesting associations and they represent indeed

the very centre of Canada. The corner at which they are situated is the main one in the city of Ottawa, and within a stone's throw of the Parliament Buildings. Here, in these rooms, sumptuously furnished, is provided every luxury and comfort and every want may be immediately satisfied. Increased accommodation adjoining the suite is available as we grow in financial strength and numbers, and will most fittingly meet our every requirement until such time as we desire a building of our own.

In following the example of The Royal Colonial Institute, in the selection of hotel premises as a temporary home, we are also adopting the same means as have many well known Institutes and Clubs throughout the United States. We are hoping in a short time to be able to announce that we have our outposts in various cities in Canada and in the United States, commencing with suitable quarters in some well known and centrally situated hotel in New York City, for the use of not only our New York members but for all members when visiting that city, also that we are in affiliation with one or more Institutes in London, which may be used by our members when in England.

To those who have seen much of the cities of the world Ottawa is a refreshing surprise. It is superbly situated, and visitors never forget their first impressions of the magnificence of the outlook, north east and west from the bluffs of Parliament Hill, which is but a few hundred yards from the busiest part of the city.

Ottawa provides many unique attractions as the capital city of the Dominion not to be found elsewhere. The standard of society is very high and this plane is well maintained on account of the special qualifications required of those employed in the Civil Service, of whom there are some seven thousand alone residing in the city of Ottawa. The possession of money and what it may purchase is not at all a passport to the esteem or popularity of the people at the Capital.

When Parliament is sitting, as it usually does for several months each year, Ottawa is at its best and brightest. Every luxury and comfort is always at hand and the cost of living is lower than in most cities, while nowhere else in Canada, and probably abroad, is the life of those of cultivated tastes and of moderate means likely to be more agreeable and satisfactory.

It is a city of beautiful streets, homes and public buildings, and it is becoming more and more each year to Canadians what Washington is to the people of the United States—a place in which to feel at home as it represents but an additional ward to our own Canadian cities and a central place in which to live; or if not that, to visit frequently as they can and enjoy the national life of the Dominion at its centre.

It will be the duty and privilege of the Institute and Club to help bring to its members and their friends at home and abroad, a realization of the many unique attractions and charms of the Capital of the Dominion of Canada, and to help them enjoy its pleasures when here.

In connection with our Information Department, which already is able to perform a valuable service at Ottawa, we are now arranging for a Travel, Transportation and Hotel Bureau for the advantage and convenience of our members at home and abroad, which will be able to give disinterested and most reliable information concerning world-wide travel, and more especially as to transportation, hotel and other accommodation in the United States and Canada. The Bureau should be of much value to our over-seas members and also to all members visiting Canada, or the United States, should they know little of or how best to reach certain places, the fares and other expenses and what accommodation to seek of the class they desire when they reach their destination.

Membership.

Patrons, Governors, Fellows, Members.

Subscriptions.

The Imperial Institute of North America will be composed of Patrons, Governors, Fellows, and Members.

A Patron will be a gentleman of any part of the Empire or of the United States who desires especially, in addition to his fees as a Governor, to assist the Institute in a financial way in the better carrying out of all its objects or any one or more of them to be selected by him. His name will be printed as a Patron in the publications of The Institute. Contributions may be made in one sum or at fixed intervals or irregu-

larly as each Patron may desire. He will act with the Governors in an Upper Governing Body and have all privileges of both Institute and Club.

Governors of the Institute will be Members of the Council and act in an Upper Governing Body to whom matters of policy will be submitted for final consideration and have all privileges of both Institute and Club.

Fellows of the Institute will be of the Council and will it is hoped give assistance in the promotion of all the interests of the Institute and its work in the gathering and distributing of knowledge on all matters of general interest to the members and assist in making the Year Book and Magazine of much value to the members. They will have all privileges of both Institute and Club.

Members will have the privileges of the Institute receive the Year Book and Magazine and other publications, with the privilege of availing themselves of the services of the Information Bureau and the Travel, Transportation and Hotel Bureau. Institute privileges alone are extended to Members of the Institute unless they have extended to them by application all privileges of the Club.

| <i>Subscriptions</i> | <i>Annual</i> | <i>Life</i> |
|---|----------------|------------------|
| Governors..... | \$50.00 or £10 | \$500.00 or £100 |
| Fellows..... | 25.00 or 5 | 250.00 or 50 |
| Members (partially privileged)..... | 5.00 or 1 | 150.00 or 30 |
| Full Membership in both Institute and Club..... | 10.00 or 2 | 200.00 or 40 |

Acceptances of invitations may be sent by letter as a special form for that purpose is not necessary.

Please address communications to "The Secretary, The Imperial Institute of North America, Ottawa, Canada."